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By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

To be continued every THURSDAY.

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I CAN remember when I was a young man at the univerſity, being ſo much affected with that very pathetic ſpeech, which Ovid has put into the mouth of Pythagoras, againſt eating the fleſh of animals, that it was ſome time before I could bring myſelf to our college mutton again, without ſome inward doubt whether I was not making myſelf an accomplice to a murder. My ſcruples remained unreconciled to the committing ſo horrid a meal, till upon ſerious reflection I became convinced of it's legality, from the general order of nature, who has inſtituted the univerſal preying upon

upon the weaker as one of her firſt principles; though to me it has ever appeared an incomprehenſible myſtery, that ſhe who could not be reſtrained by any want of materials from furniſhing ſupplies for the ſupport of her various offspring, ſhould lay them under the neceſſity of devouring one another.

But though this reflection had force enough to diſpythagorize me, before my companions had time to make obſervations upon my behaviour, which could by no means have turned to my advantage in the world, I for a great while retained ſo tender a regard for all my fellow creatures, that I have ſeveral times brought myſelf into imminent peril, by my attempts to reſcue perſecuted cats from the hands and teeth of their worryers; by endeavouring to prevent the engagement of dogs, who had manifeſtly no quarrel of their own, and by putting butcher's boys in mind, that as their ſheep were going to die, they walked full as faſt as could be reaſonably expected, without the cruel blows, they were ſo liberal in beſtowing upon them. As I commonly came off by the worſt in theſe diſputes, and as I could not but obſerve that I often aggravated, never diminiſhed, the ill treatment of theſe innocent ſufferers, I ſoon found it neceſſary to conſult my own eaſe, as well as ſecurity, by turning down another ſtreet, whenever I met with any adventure of this kind, rather than be compelled to be a ſpectator of what would ſhock me, or be provoked to run myſelf into danger, without the leaſt advantage to thoſe whom I would aſſiſt.

I have kept ſtrictly ever ſince to this method of flying from the ſight of cruelty, whenever I could find ground-room for it; and I make no manner of doubt that I have more than once eſcaped the horns of a mad

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ox, as all of that ſpecies are called, that do not chuſe to be tormented as well as killed. But on the other hand, theſe eſcapes of mine have very frequently run me into great inconveniencies: I have ſometimes been led into ſuch a ſeries of blind alleys, that it has been matter of great difficulty to me to find my way out of them. I have been betrayed by my hurry into the middle of a market, the proper reſidence of inhumanity. I have paid many a ſix-and-eight-pence for non-appearance at the hour my lawyer had appointed for buſineſs; and, what would hurt ſome people worſe than all the reſt, I have frequently arrived too late, for the dinners I have been invited to at the houſes of my friends.

All theſe difficulties and diſtreſſes, I began to flatter myſelf, were going to be removed, and that I ſhould be left at liberty to purſue my walks through the ſtraiteſt and broadeſt ſtreets, when Mr. Hogarth firſt publiſhed his prints upon the ſubject of cruelty; but whatever ſucceſs ſo much ingenuity, founded upon ſo much humanity, might deſerve, all the hopes I had built of ſeeing a reformation, proved vain and fruitleſs. I am ſorry to ſay it, but there ſtill remain in the ſtreets of this metropolis more ſcenes of barbarity, than perhaps are to be met with in all Europe beſides. Aſia is too well known for compaſſion to brutes; and nobody who has read Buſbequius, will wonder at me for moſt heartily wiſhing, that our common people were no crueller than Turks.

I should have apprehenſions of being laughed at, were I to complain of want of compaſſion in our law; the very word ſeeming contradictory to any idea of it; but I will venture to own that to me it appears ſtrange, that the man againſt whom I ſhould be enabled to bring

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an action for laying a little dirt at my door; may with impunity drive by it half a dozen calves, with their tails lopped close to their bodies, and their hinder parts covered with blood. He must have a passion for neatness not to be envied, who does not think this a greater nusance, than the sight of a few cinders.

I know not whether it is from the clergy's having looked upon this subject as too trivial for their notice, that we find them more silent upon it than could be wished: for as slaughter is at present no branch of the priesthood, it is to be presumed they have as much compassion as other men. The Spectator has exclaimed against the cruelty of roasting lobsters alive, and of whipping pigs to death: but the misfortune is, the writings of an Addison are seldom read by cooks and butchers. As to the thinking part of mankind, it has always been convinced, I believe, that however conformable to the general rule of nature our devouring of animals may be (for I would not be understood to impeach, what is our only visible prerogative as lords of the creation, an unbounded licence of teeth) we are nevertheless under indelible obligations to prevent their suffering any degree of pain, more than is absolutely unavoidable. But this conviction lies in such hands, that I fear not one poor creature in a million has ever fared the better for it, and I believe never will; since people of condition, the only source from whence this pity is to flow, are so far from inculcating it to those beneath them, that a very few winters ago, they suffered themselves to be entertained at a public theatre by the performances of an unhappy company of animals, who could only have been made actors by the utmost energy of whipcord and starving.

I ACKNOWLEDGE my tenderneſs to be particularly affected in favour of ſo faithful and uſeful a creature as a dog; an animal ſo approaching to us in ſenſe, ſo dependant upon us for ſupport, and ſo peculiarly the friend of man, that he deſerves the kindeſt and moſt gentle uſage. For no leſs than the whole race of theſe animals have I been under the greateſt alarms, ever ſince the tax upon dogs was firſt reported to be in agitation. I thought it a little hard indeed, that a man ſhould be taxed for having one creature in his houſe, in which he might confide; but when I heard that officers were to be appointed, to knock out the brains of all theſe honeſt domeſtics, who ſhould preſume to make their appearance in the ſtreets without the paſſport of their maſter's name about their necks, I became ſeriouſly concerned for them.

THIS enmity againſt dogs is pretended to be founded upon the apprehenſion of their going mad: but an eaſier remedy might be applied, by aboliſhing the cuſtom (with many others equally ingenious) of tying bottles and ſtones to their tails, by which means (and in this one particular I muſt give up my clients) the unfortunate ſufferer becomes ſubject to the perſecutions of his own ſpecies, too apt to join the run againſt a brother in diſtreſs. But great allowance ſhould be made for an animal, who in an intimacy of near ſix thouſand years with man, has learnt but one of his bad qualities.

To conclude this ſubject, as I cannot but join in opinion with Mr. Hogarth, that the frequency of murders among us is greatly owing to thoſe ſcenes of cruelty, which the lower ranks of people are ſo much accuſtomed to; inſtead of multiplying ſuch ſcenes, I ſhould rather

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